NAVCOMTELSTA BAHRAIN: THE NAVY'S NEWEST

By LT Susan Bryer Joyner, NCTAMS MED with input from LT Debra N. Melton and ET1(SW) G. Lamar Wilkie

Although Gulf War combat ended five years ago, tensions are still high in the Southwest Asia region — as evidenced by several recent terrorist bombings. In addition, U.S. Naval Forces continue to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq. As a result, there is a lot of military expansion occurring in Southwest Asia.

The messaging department of the Administrative Support Unit (ASU) in Bahrain has grown into a full fledged Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA) in only three years. This is probably the last NAVCOMTELSTA that will be established in the foreseeable future, and is the only one that has been approved during recent military downsizing.

NAVCOMTELCOM JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR: HUMBLED BY THE HONOR

By ET2 Savang Moua, NAVCOMTELSTA Puget Sound Detachment, Whidbey Island

Every year, we in the Navy hear about special Sailors who are honored as the Sailor of the Year. This past year, I was fortunate to be selected as the NAVCOMTELCOM Junior Sailor of the Year. My name is ET2 Savang Moua from NAVCOMTELSTA Puget Sound Detachment, Whidbey Island, WA.
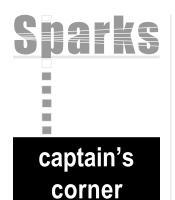
Sailors, please allow me a minute of your busy schedule. Whether you are in the NAVCOMTELCOM claimancy or not, we all want to do our best. "Our best," some of you might say, is just a job. In my opinion, it's not just another job and our best is but the minimum we should ask from each other.

It was my honor, privilege, and good fortune to be given the opportunity to visit Washington, DC. I visited small, cramped offices where our shipmates work incredibly long hours talking with you and me, working very hard to detail us out into the fleet where we want to go.

ET2 Savang Moua

Sparks

CAPT Michael P. Finn

SPARKS SHARES THE PRIDE AND JOY OF OUR C4 EXPERTS

It is with great pleasure that we publish the inaugural issue of *Sparks*. Since the word went out to all commands requesting articles detailing the accomplishments of the C4 experts of the COMNAVCOMTELCOM claimancy, I have been overwhelmed by both the volume of submissions and critically important successes you all have achieved. From the four corners of the globe and its seven seas, stories of personal excellence and mission successes have flooded the headquarters. I've enjoyed every one of them.

As Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command, COMNAVCOMTELCOM, I revel in the daily successes of NAVCOMTELCOM personnel. Every day, the civilians and sailors of NAVCOMTELCOM commands are providing outstanding C4 support to deployed units and government agencies around the world—guaranteeing vital connectivity to both warfighters and peace makers. This newsletter is all about sharing the pride and joy of our C4 experts, and advertising all the wonderful things that our customers enjoy everyday.

Our first issue will highlight the diversified successes of NAVCOMTELCOM commands. From new and improved installed equipment to better services, the pages that follow tell the stories of our renowned efficiencies and excellencies. Articles about the standup of NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain, or the new NOVA system at NAVCOMTELSTA JAX follow. Get the latest on the Naples Relocation Project, the completion of the HT/MT modernization at NAVSATCOMM-FAC Northwest, the millions of dollars saved by the R&R assessment, and more.

Read on! Enjoy the articles that tell the story of the Navy's C4 experts. You are the pros of NAVCOMTELCOM. This is about what we are, where we go, and how we do our job. I welcome all comments, and look forward to future submissions of articles further detailing Navy C4 initiatives and achievements.

Keep charging!

MIKE FINN

MAINTAINING A DYNAMIC SPONSOR PROGRAM

Sparks

from the desk
of the force
master chief

An effective Sponsor Program is one of the best quality of life tools we have. It's a great way to let our people know, right off the bat, that they are important and we care about them. If done right, each newly reporting person will be met, as soon as practical, when they arrive in the area, have their personal needs taken care of, and escorted through the check-in process. A well-administered Sponsor Program will certainly ease the difficulties encountered by our Sailors and their families, and reduce the apprehensions that normally occur during a change in station move.

How well your program works is an all hands responsibility—not just the sponsor coordinator, the Command Master Chief, or the Admin Officer. A dynamic program does not happen automatically, it takes planning, creativity, dedication, and monitoring. When looking at your program, answer these questions:

* Are the right sponsors being assigned, (i.e., similar pay grade, marital status, and sponsor availability after arrival)?
* Is your sponsor training program effective?
* Is someone available to meet unexpected arrivals 24 hours a day (a duty " greeter")?
* Do major fleet concentration areas and school houses from where you receive people have your station and command's Welcome Aboard package?
* Can you read everything in your Welcome Aboard package, or has it been duplicated so many times that the legends on the maps are unreadable?
* Are detaching personnel informed of the benefits of the Navy Sponsor Program and encouraged to communicate with their sponsor?
* Does your sponsor coordinator attend meetings with other area sponsor coordinators, or Family Service Centers to share information and procedures in order to maximize program effectiveness?
* Does the reporting member, and their sponsor meet with the Commanding Officer or Executive Officer, and the Command Master Chief within 72 hours?
* Is the effectiveness of your program being monitored and improved based on a periodic review of sponsor feedback forms?

OPNAVINST 1740.3 gives excellent guidance on this very important program. The Navy Sponsor Program is one that can demonstrate that each member is important to the command and the Navy.

MCTM (SS) Brian M. Robertson

CHANGES OF COMMAND

EASTPAC
· NAVCOMTELSTA Diego Garcia, CDR Kim Drury relieved CDR Michael Scott in September 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Far East, CDR Kathy DiMaggio relieved CDR Mary McLendon in July 1996.

MED
· NCTAMS MED, CAPT Chip Cooper relieved CAPT Paul A. Moore in August 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain, CDR Gerta Edwards relieves LT Debra Melton in November 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland, CDR Francis Hiser relieved CDR Don Kerrigan in April 1996.

LANT
· NAVCOMTELSTA Wash, CDR Mimi Corcoran relieved CDR Ron Christopher in September 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola, CDR Lynn Hicks relieved CDR Gracie Thompson in May 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler, CAPT Eric Glidden relieved CDR Bill Castle in September 1996.
· DCMS Washington, CDR Renee Rodeck relieved CDR Carla Villarreal in July 1996.
· NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville, CDR Robert Whitkop relieves CDR Tom Goodall in November 1996.

Sparks

BRAVO ZULU

NAVSATCOMMFAC Northwest received a Bravo Zulu from CINCUSNAVEUR for an emergent restoral following the GSC-39 earth terminal outage at NAVSATCOMMFAC Lago. The rapid response displayed by the watch section reflected outstanding professionalism and dedication to mission objectives, and provided all users with seamless communications.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD FOR SAFETY PETTY OFFICER

The FY 95 COMNAV-COMTELCOM Individual Safety Petty Officer Award went to NAVSATCOMMFAC Northwest's ET1(SW) David A. Thomas. As the command's Safety Petty Officer, ET1(SW) Thomas displayed superb leadership, technical expertise, and outstanding management techniques. As a result of his efforts, NAVSATCOMMFAC Northwest received a 97 percent during its annual safety inspection.

NAPLES RELOCATION PROJECT -- HITTING THE HOME STRETCH

By CWO2 T. Stout, NRP Project Officer, NCTAMS MED

For years we've been hearing about the new CINC C4I facility in Naples. It's actually located on the Capodichino base, and it now appears that we may be headed down the home stretch. The project, which includes the relocation of all command and control staffs from Agnano's aging Building 70 and all of NCTAMS MED from the AFSOUTH Post, has been underway for 10 years now. This fall we will begin the transition of NCTAMS MED and NSGA Naples as the first step in a process expected to take approximately one year.

Driving this process is the lease expiration at the Agnano facility, as well as its age and condition. It just doesn't fit the requirement anymore. The new facility will integrate 11 commands under one roof using the Information Presentation and Distribution System (IPDS). This system will provide the foundation for information transfer among tenants inside the building, local area commands, and the fleet; and will consist of a secure LAN, an unclassified LAN, and secure video distribution. IPDS and its subsystems will provide all data requirements for support of the warfighter.

Another significant addition to the building is the Automated Network Control Center (ANCC). Designed to eliminate cumbersome patch panels, this system is currently installed and awaiting integration of each circuit as cutover actions begin. Since the ANCC at MED is already installed, it has an advantage over other ANCC/ATC system installations because it allows other systems/circuits to be integrated into it, whereas other ANCC installations have had to integrate into an existing communications facility and cutover during on-line operations.

Because this move affects not only the Naples area, but the entire Mediterranean communications structure, we will be timing the moves to ensure there is minimal impact on the customers. This evolution will require extensive coordination at MED and with NCTAMS WESTPAC and LANT. Stand by to see great things happening at NCTAMS MED!

NRTF NISCEMI CORK FOREST HARVEST

by CWO3 Atkins, NCTAMS MED

The Navy Radio Transmitting Facility Niscemi, Sicily located approximately 60 miles southwest of NAS Sigonella, is situated on a 1150 acre site which includes 400 acres known as the Niscemi Cork Forest. The cork forest is a part of the larger Santo Pietro, a relic of a larger forest that dates back to prehistoric times. The average age of the Niscemi trees is 100 years old while the oldest is around 600 years old.

Cork can be harvested when the tree is as young as 20 years old and continues until the tree dies. Cork trees (alberi sugheri) require harvesting every seven to nine years in order for them to grow properly. It takes about 15 minutes to completely strip an average-sized tree by hand — the normal method of harvesting. The tree appears to "cry" since it turns a dark red when the cork is removed. The red coloring is actually an iodine-like substance which is collected and used as medication.

The cork, once removed from the tree, is shipped to northern Italy where it is processed and made into various items for use, such as wine bottle corks, cork boards and shoe padding.

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR

During my Washington trip, I requested a visit to the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials. The first, a memorial to a great man who had the foresight and guts to do what was right; the other a wall with thousands of names of people who didn't know you or me, but who gave their lives so you and I could do what we do every day. Think about that for a few seconds.

I toured the Pentagon, received a private tour of the Naval Academy, and went to the awards dinner. Afterwards, I saw performances by the Navy's Marching Band, Blue Grass Band, and the Navy Band in the Naval District Washington annual summer pageant entitled "The American Sailor." The pageant showed the evolution of our Navy from the Continental Congress to the Navy we are today, and the trials, tribulations and challenges of a Sailor's life. From the long endless hours on watch, be it at sea or some other place, to the joy of pulling into port and seeing our loved ones.

Our loved ones are why we endure the hardships of going to sea, and do what we do. The people we hold most dear, our country, the way of life we protect, and the future of our children, these are the reasons why our best is the bare minimum. Our country, with its rich history, is why we should all be honored to serve her and finally, we have the privilege to work with people from all over the nation. Our leaders, our peers, and the young Sailors who are just getting used to the Navy; look around you and you will find people of different races, different faiths and different cultures from around the world, and we all serve the same Navy.

Be proud of your work, take to heart the task your workcenter supervisor, LPO, and LCPO assigns to you, and be honorable in everything you do. You will have a top-notch, hard-charging Sailor and, most assuredly, be given the privilege to come to Washington, DC, to experience the honor, courage, commitment, and be humbled by the power of the greatest nation on the face of the planet.

NAVCOMTELCOM SAILOR RETURNS $8K

On Labor Day, RM1 Roosevelt Harrison did what thousands of us do every day -- go to the automatic teller machine to withdraw money. As he completed his transaction, he noticed an envelope on the ledge. It was different from the usual debris around the teller machine because it was an overstuffed sealed envelope. Knowing it might be valuable, he opened it to find it full of endorsed checks -- nearly $8K worth, and a deposit slip.

Fortunately the deposit slip contained the company name which he promptly found in the phone directory and called the listing.

Mrs. C. Kilbourne answered the phone and was shocked to discover her husband had left the checks at the ATM. RM1 Harrison assured her the checks were safe with him and she agreed to meet him at the Naval Security Station. According to Mrs. Kilbourne, the checks represented rents on properties she and her husband manage. "I wanted to give him a reward for his trouble but he refused...Mr. Harrison made a most favorable impression on me. He is modest, honorable and courteous," she said.

This is not the first time RM1 Harrison has displayed such honor. He once found someone's payroll check and returned it with the same modesty and strength of character.

"I always wondered what I would do if I found a lot of money, now I know," says Harrison. "I would hope that if I lost something valuable that someone would do the same thing for me."

Mr. Kilbourne called RM1 Harrison later that evening to extend his appreciation as well, and told him he was a former Army member.

"I believe the character displayed by Mr. Harrison is not unusual in the men and women who serve in our armed forces, nevertheless, I think it is very important to recognize it wherever we find it. I am happy to acknowledge Mr. Roosevelt Harrison as a gentleman of the highest caliber and to call his actions to (his commanding officer's) attention.

NAS II Annex Disassembled

By CWO3 Atkins, NCTAMS MED

After 25 years of service to NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily, the old NAS-II Antenna annex was turned over to NAS Sigonella for future use on June 28, 1996. The annex had three receive antennas: two AS2214 inverted cones and one AS2256 high take. These antennas have been replaced with the new Hermes Loop antenna, which is located about half a mile down the road from NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily and has already proven to be an excellent receive antenna. Thanks to Vincent Scarso and the antenna crew for their outstanding job taking down the old antennas and erecting and testing the new hermes loop.

NAVAL RESERVE UNIT WINS 1995 SPECTRUM AWARD

By Elaine Cardone, Public Affairs Officer, NCTAMS LANT

In a recent ceremony at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT), the 1995 Spectrum Award was presented to Naval Reserve Unit NCTAMS LANT 306, Naval and Marine Corps Readiness Center, Norfolk, Virginia. This is the second consecutive year a NCTAMS LANT unit has won this award. Last year's winner was NR NCTAMS LANT 204, Naval Radio Maintenance Receiving Center (NRMRC), Harrisburg, PA, commanded by CDR Celia Booth.

The Spectrum Award recognizes the best overall unit in Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command "Program 15" claimancy of 23 reserve units.

Criteria for the award include mobilization readiness, training, retention, advancement, physical readiness, awards, and special accomplishments.

CAPT Michael Finn, Commander, NAVCOMTELCOM, presented the award to LCDR Robert Greene, Commanding Officer of NCTAMS LANT's Reserve Unit 306.

DCMS PUBLICATIONS NOW ON CD

By CWO2 Mattie Vcelik, Long Range Planner, Policies & Procedures Dept., DCMS

Compact disks (CD) are on the way! Director, Defense Communications Security Material System (DCMS) has started the ball rolling for most of our publications to be available on CD. CMS-1 (Communications Security Material System (CMS) Policy and Procedures Manual), CMS-5A (COMSEC Equipment Manual) and CMS-6 (Secure Telephone Unit Third Generation (STU-III) COMSEC Material Management Manual) are in the first stage of CD production. While CD-ROM technology is not the sole avenue available in the advancement towards a paperless Navy, it is an important part of the solution in achieving that goal. The CD will be UNCLASSIFIED in nature and offer the following advantages over the production and management of hard copy manuals:

- Improved file integrity and ease of use
- Hold a maximum of 660 megabytes (exceeding 300,000 pages of text)
- Costs about $.75 to mail (paper equivalent weighs 2,500 pounds, occupies 120 feet of shelf space, and costs nearly $1000 to mail)
- Weighs less than one ounce, takes less than an inch of shelf space
- Eliminates cost of paper reproduction (approximately a $156,820 savings to produce CD vice paper)
- Searching and selecting files is easier
- No amendments need to be entered

The goal of DCMS is to distribute up-to-date CDs annually in order to eliminate paper based amendments/corrections which can be troublesome to maintain. A proof CD is currently under review and actual distribution of DCMS publications in CD form to the fleet is expected to begin soon.

NAVCOMTELSTA BAHRAIN

Communications in and out of the Arabian Gulf region are more essential now than ever, and the communications infrastructure has grown rapidly. What began as part of ASU was established as a separate detachment called Naval Computer and Telecommunications Detachment Bahrain, after a transfer agreement was completed between COMUSNAVCENT, ASU and COMNAVCOMTELCOM in 1993.

The detachment received its first major installation about a year later when the GSC-52 earth terminal was installed and commissioned in August 1994. This equipment provided expanded communications support to the area of responsibility (AOR). The command also picked up the Base Communications Office functions in 1994, and began refurbishing the antiquated cable structure at the facility in Bahrain.

On January 1, 1995, the detachment was renamed Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Mediterranean Detachment (NCTAMS MED DET) Bahrain and received its first permanent Officer-in-Charge (OIC), LT Debra N. Melton. Both she and the Assistant OIC are Limited Duty Officers.

Since its establishment, USCINCCENT has called NCTAMS MED Det Bahrain its single most important asset in the AOR. Circuit activation rapidly increased, as did equipment installations. Additional capabilities now include QUICKSAT, NIPRNET, SIPRNET, Automatic Technical Control (ATC) and IDNX 90. In the 18 months since the installation of the GSC-52, the number of people assigned to the detachment has increased to 78.

In keeping with the rapid expansion of the detachment, there are several projects that are ongoing or planned. Current projects include the installation of the AN/USC-38 EHF terminal which is scheduled for completion in June 1996 and the expansion of the baseband equipment room, where there is a validated requirement for 143 additional racks of equipment as the detachment becomes a dual STEP site by the end of fiscal year 1998.

Projects being planned range from the projected installation of NOVA in fiscal year 1997 to ITSDN, a full UHF upgrade/move from the current tactical technical control operated and managed in the COMUSNAVCENT compound aboard ASU, to a second EHF terminal being installed. Additionally, USCINCCENT has validated the requirement for a second SHF earth terminal and the Mission Needs Statement is awaiting Joint Chiefs of Staff approval.

The credit for the detachment's success during its rapid growth can be primarily attributed to its personnel. The first COMNAVCOMTELCOM Inspector General (IG) review was conducted in March 1996 and had impressive operational results. Every visitor, from the IG Team to CAPT Finn, Commander, NAVCOMTELCOM, has been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the men and women at this station. Comments have ranged from "Best we've ever seen" to "What do you feed these people?"

On July 1, 1996, LT Melton assumed command as the first Commanding Officer of the newly formed Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA) Bahrain in ceremonies onboard ASU. The Executive Officer is LT Denise Duke, a Limited Duty Officer reporting from

Sparks news

Washington, DC. The establishment of NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain recognizes the increased support required for COMUSNAVCENT/ COMFIFTHFLT and USCINCCENT, as well as the increasing role of the U.S. Military in the Southwest Asia AOR. The accomplishments of the newly established station and its personnel will continue to benefit its customers as the expansion continues.

NAVCOMTELSTA NEW ORLEANS RECEIVES MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

By YN1 Michael Gronski, Dir. Admin Support Ctr., NAVCOMTELSTA New Orleans

The Secretary of the Navy awarded NAVCOMTELSTA New Orleans the Meritorious Unit Commendation on 11 March 1996. NAVCOMTELSTA New Orleans (including component activities NTCC Ingleside, TX; NTCC Memphis, TN; and Base Communications Office Gulfport, MS) received the award for many significant contributions in direct support of naval missions. Dual funded as a Defense Business Operations Fund (DBOF) and a mission-funded activity, NAVCOMTELSTA New Orleans demonstrated exceptional fiscal and operational efficiency.

CDR R.C. Long, LCDR Nancy Dillard, LT Joanne Reese, Jo Choia, Dennis Pigg, Dave Herring and Lorraine Verbal represent NCTS New Orleans.

According to CDR R.C. Long, "The quality services provided and the efficiencies achieved are solely due to the hard work of my staff. I am extremely proud of their achievement."

A team of highly professional individuals, NAVCOMTELSTA New

Orleans performed its telecommunications, telephony, and information systems services functions with exceptional expertise and efficiency from 3 Sept 93 through 28 July 95.

In the DBOF arena, the command successfully managed to exceed its Net Operating Result (NOR) for Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994, while providing cost effective, quality information systems support and services to various government customers. From the mission-funded perspective, the command netted a savings of over $605 thousand by streamlining operations and aggressively implementing the guidance of higher authorities.

Additionally, NAVCOMTELSTA New Orleans provided telecommunications, computer, and telephone services to over 300 customer commands and achieved the CNO's goal of 100 percent paperless delivery of message traffic. Further, they played a major role in the F. Edward Hebert Defense Complex Information Technology Modernization Initiative, which included installing a fiber optic based Metropolitan Area Network and providing digital telephone switch services for Naval Support Activity New Orleans, NAS Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, and the Naval Reserve Information Systems Office (NAVRESINFOSYSOFF) Chef Menteur site.

With the ongoing merger of the DP/RM ratings and the command's future merger with NAVRESINFO-SYSOFF, the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees have validated the command motto VIS PER INTEGRATUM (strength through integration)!

TIDEWATER SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM NCTAMS LANT'S EXPERTISE

By Elaine Cardone, Public Affairs Officer, NCTAMS LANT

community news

The Naval Computer and Tele-communications Area Master Station LANT (NCTAMS LANT), the Navy's computer and communications gurus, recently provided invaluable support to one of the most innovative and beneficial academic partnerships ever to occur in the Tidewater area.

CDR Kevin K. Uhrich, NCTAMS LANT's Executive Officer, and Mr. David W. Chapman, Head of the Technical Services Division, participated in the planning process with city officials and provided technical guidance. Chief Radioman David Obermark coordinated NCTAMS LANT's 40+ volunteers in the project. The work involved the set-up of 400 state-of-the-art personal computers at Ruffner Middle School in Norfolk. NCTAMS LANT's finest donated well over 6OO man-hours to the project.

Over a two-week period, NCTAMS LANT volunteers assisted in every phase of the project. Led by Chief Signalman George Jackson, a crew first unloaded the 400 micro-computers and peripheral equipment and moved them to various sites throughout the school.

The systems were then unpacked, set up, and connected to the school's Local Area Network (LAN), and tested for LAN and Internet connectivity.

Electronics Technician Third Class (ET3) Teresa Fullencamp was quickly recognized as an on-site "linchpin" by Bill Pickins, Ruffner's Project Manager. Her energy, expertise, and dedication to work made her an important asset to the project. ET3 Fullencamp provided continuity to the 14-day project. When she could no longer be spared from her duties in NCTAMS LANT's Electronics Maintenance Department, ET3 Tony Hottle, also from the Electronics Maintenance Department, took over.

NCTAMS LANT's First Class Petty Officer's Association was also instrumental in the system set-up, software installation, and systems testing phases.

The computers were initially set up for a national conference, "Transforming Local Government," hosted by the City of Norfolk. The training portion of the conference was touted as the largest Internet workshop ever held. Participants at the three-day conference received extensive hands-on training on topics such as the World Wide Web, Introduction to the Internet, Designing a Homepage, and E-Mail.

Cox Communications donated the equipment, valued at $1.3 million. Many other sponsors from the business community, the media, and academia contributed substantial goods and services to the partnership effort.

After the conference, NCTAMS LANT volunteers once again moved the equipment to permanent locations throughout the school, where it will be used for educational purposes. After reconnecting the systems, conference software was replaced for student use.

The most valuable aspect of this partnership project involved the 400 state-of-the-art computers and peripheral equipment, which will remain in the community. Most of the donated equipment will stay at Ruffner Middle School, making it one of two "technology model" schools in the nation. All area schools will benefit as well, as older equipment at Ruffner is passed on to other schools, youth groups, libraries, and others.

On 11 June, 1996, CDR Kevin Uhrich, Executive Officer, NCTAMS LANT, received a "Class Act" award from the Norfolk City Manager in recognition of exemplary performance of service to Norfolk's citizens, for his efforts in the Ruffner School project.

NCTAMS LANT is now expanding that effort. In concert with area schools, the command is assisting in connecting a wide area network that will include all Tidewater area schools (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and Suffolk).

In lieu of a traditional "adopt-a-school" partnership, NCTAMS LANT stands ready to offer ad hoc assistance in the computer/information technology area to the community's educational sector — school administrators, teachers and students.

NCTAMS LANT provides a full range of communications, information technology and information management support services to Navy, DOD, and other Federal agencies worldwide. The command serves as headquarters for one of four naval communications regions throughout the world. Its span of control stretches from Iceland to Puerto Rico, and is comprised of approximately 2,300 military and civilian personnel. CAPT James E. Booth is Commanding Officer.

Sparks

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technical improvements

NEW TELEPHONE SWITCH: PRIMED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By LT Mitzi Ellis, Public Affairs Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville

In June, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA), Jacksonville brought on-line a new digital telephone switch system that — in one stroke — propelled the technology of Jacksonville naval complex communications from aged Cold War systems to state-of-the-art systems primed for the 21st Century.

Referred to as the "5ESS Digital Telephone Switch," this elaborate ultra-tech device "marks the beginning of a new era in telecommunications in the region," remarked NAVCOMTELSTA Commanding Officer, CDR Tom Goodall during the June 21st ceremony marking the on-line debut of the sophisticated system.

CDR Goodall elaborated, "This beginning will allow us to support our customers with new and exciting applications that will improve the quality of life for our Sailors and civilian employees, increase productivity, and eliminate redundancy."

The system, manufactured by Western Electric Corp., was obtained from Naval Station Subic Bay, Philippines, after it was ordered closed by the Base Realignment and Closing Commission. "It had survived both a volcanic eruption and a typhoon, and was still found to be serviceable," said LCDR Keith Green in his switch history address.

"This switch was needed to replace obsolete and aging leased switches at Naval Station Mayport, NAS Jacksonville, and the Naval Hospital," LDCR Green observed.

RADM Kevin Delaney, Commander, Naval Base Jacksonville, said implementation of the system is a big plus in savings for taxpayers, describing it as a "Navy telecommunications regional leap from the 19th to the 21st Century."

RADM Delaney presented four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and five Meritorious Civilian Service Medals to command employees for their roles in the implementation of the system. They were RM2 James Atkins, ET2 Steven Chewning, ET2(SW) Carol Wigley, ET3 Michael Craig, Lee West, Chuck Bennett, Patsy Kilpatrick, Wayne Harrington, and Kathy Boyd.

CDR Goodall extended his gratitude to a cadre of key personnel who, since 1992, worked on the re-engineering, upgrading, and installation of the switch and associated remote modules in Jacksonville — especially NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola, project manager for the installation.

The ceremony's guest of honor was U. S. Representative Corrine Brown, from Florida's 3rd District (Jacksonville). Other honored guests included RADM Kevin Delaney, Commander, Naval Base Jacksonville; CAPT Michael Finn, Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command, Washington, DC; CAPT James Booth, Commanding Officer, Naval Computer and Tele-communications Area Master Station, Atlantic, and CAPT Robert Whitmire, Commanding Officer, NAS Jacksonville.

Excerpts taken from the June 27, 1996 issue of the Jax Air News.

PROVIDING DOMAIN NAME SERVICE FOR THE NAVY

By: Mr. Richard T. Smith, Telecommunications Specialist, NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola

In 1993, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Pensacola (NAVCOMTELSTA) assumed responsibility for providing Domain Name Service (DNS) for the Navy on unclassified networks (NIPRNET). NAVCOMTELCOM tasked NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola to provide a reliable and responsive service to Navy commands as they began to connect to and utilize the Internet. Earlier this year, NAVCOMTELCOM tasked NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola to provide DNS for the Navy on classified networks (SIPRNET) and given the added task of improving overall service, and reducing response time to the fleet.

What is DNS? DNS is basically an Internet service that provides a way to convert an Internet Protocol (IP) address into a name; for example, 138.147.20.14 to argonaut.ncts.navy.mil, and vice versa. DNS makes life on the Internet easier for the average user because a name is much easier to remember than an IP address. Domain names are used by all the other major IP network services, such as e-mail, file transfer protocol (FTP), telnet, gopher, and the World Wide Web (WWW) to address specific hosts on the Internet.

In early 1994, the NAVCOMTELSTA Internet Division brought five DNS servers on-line for the navy.mil domain. The major function of these servers is to manage names and addresses for Navy hosts on the unclassified networks, and provide pointers to the servers of subdomains of navy.mil, such as NAVCOMTELSTA Washington's domain (nctsw.navy.mil). NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola is responsible for the administration of the navy.mil domain on a "global" level. The administration of a subdomain of navy.mil is the responsibility of the local DNS administrator.

In January 1996, NAVCOMTELCOM tasked NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola with providing DNS service for Navy users on the classified network. The Internet Division developed a plan to install three DNS servers on SIPRNET. The servers would be located at NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola, NCTAMS EASTPAC in Wahiawa, and NCTAMS LANT Norfolk. The servers at Wahiawa and Norfolk would be co-located with the SIPRNET nodes. The Pensacola connection would require a circuit to MacDill AFB. The DNS server on SIPRNET at Wahiawa was installed in early February. At that time, NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola became the primary POC for the navy.smil.mil domain. To administer the domain while awaiting connectivity in Pensacola, a STU-III encrypted dial-up connection was set up between the Wahiawa server and Pensacola with the assistance of Ray Cobb, the NAVCOMTELSTA CMS custodian. The DNS server at NCTAMS LANT was installed in April, and in early May, the NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola connection was brought online.

A WWW server on the NCTAMS LANT DNS provides a smoother interface for SIPRNET users to obtain domain name information. A backup STU-III dial-up connection to the Norfolk server is being planned.

DNS is an effective and efficient way to convert an IP address into an easier to remember domain name. Widely used, domain names have improved service and response time for all Internet users.

For more information about DNS, please visit the NCTS DNS homepage at http://www.navy.mil/ncts/dns/navymil/dns.html, or the Network Information Center homepage at http://nic.ddn.mil/DNS/. For SIPRNET access to the DNS homepage, the address is http://www.navy.smil.mil/dns/. NCTS Pensacola's POC is Jim Glenn, DSN 922-2601 extension 5465.

Sparks

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ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AT NAVCOMTELSTA JAX

By RMCS(SW) Sandy McCormick, Jr., Message Center Division Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville

In June 1985, a Local Digital Message Exchange (LDMX) system was installed at NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville. At that time, this state-of-the-art equipment provided quality service and telecommunications support to hundreds of ashore and afloat customers. Its unique features and system functions included duplicate message detection, courtesy backroute copies of outgoing messages, flagword processing, short

Robert Blythe, site representative, NAVCOMTELSTA Washington, shuts off CDMV System with RADM K.F. Delaney, COMNAVBASE Jacksonville, as Cecil Hollingshead looks on.

form readdressals/quotes, data pattern traffic, first-in-first-out processing, and off-line message recalls/storage via journal tape.

In April 1996, just over ten years later, the command advanced automated naval communications even further with the completion of the transition to the new NOVA system. NOVA is an excellent tool to increase delivery speed of messages and service actions.

Team members that helped make the transition possible include RMC(SW) Harold Reeve, RMC(SW) Raymond Garcia, RMC(sel) Gayla Brown, ET2 Christopher Brooks, DP1 Thomas Strickland, Bob Blythe, and Cecil Hollingshead.

The NOVA system, which takes up less than one quarter of the physical space of the LDMX system, reduces power consumption by 80 percent and enhances the quality of service for all subscribers. Unlike the LDMX System, the NOVA is a store-and-forward message system.

Messages can be retrieved up to 20 days and traced up to 30 days. In addition, NOVA aids in providing service center functions for afloat subscribers and provides automated message processing and distribution to over 1750 customers.

NOVA provides direct support to fleet and mobile units based in Mayport, Pensacola, Orlando, Key West, and Cecil Field, Florida; Kings Bay, Georgia; New Orleans, Louisiana; Camp Lejuene, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and over 200 Marine Corps reserve commands nationwide.

NAVCOMTELSTA PUERTO RICO ACHIEVES 38% OVERALL COMMAND ADVANCEMENT

By RMCS J.Q. Toomer, Training Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Puerto Rico

"Astonished" is the word Command Training Officer RMCS Toomer used to describe his reaction when he learned that NAVCOMTELSTA Puerto Rico compiled an overall E-4 through E-6 command advancement of 38 percent. "Our advancement success is a direct reflection of our training program and the Khaki involvement," says Toomer.

In the NAVCOMTELSTA training program, Sailors are encouraged to cross-train. They are able to successfully qualify in areas of Technical Control, Message Center, Ashore Sector Warfare Support Communications Detachment, VERDIN/ISABPS, Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network and Automated Information Security (AIS).

Once an individual has successfully qualified as supervisor in a functional area, they can request to move on to another area in which to qualify (normally six to eight months). Because of their unique structure, the Communications Watch Officer (CWO) — who coordinates a large percentage of moves within their area of influence — can regulate the distribution of personnel while not interfering with the chemistry of other sections, divisions or departments. As a result, cross training has provided them with well rounded RMs and DPs.

Those advanced were YN1 Jose Cabret, RM1 Christine Armond, RM1 David Gianquitto, RM1 Angel Rivera, RM1 Luis Sanabria, ET1 Thomas Chambers, RM1 Miguel Santiago, RM1 Daniel Belanger, RM1 David Jimenez, RM1 Randall Bragg, RM2 Gregory Pope, RM2 James Kittrell, and RM3 Marie Sehl.

Working closely with RMCS(SW/ SCW) Toomer to get personnel trained were CDR J.K. Burton, Commanding Officer, CDR Susan Higgins, Executive Officer, CWO Bonnie Shockley, Communications Officer, RMCS(SW) Michael McKay, N3 LCPO, and RMCS Gerald Alford, Command Senior Chief.

Another unique aspect of the program is in the Technical Controller or ASCOMM Tech area. If members are a Technical Controller or ASCOMM Tech, the first two months following the dissemination of the previous advancement cycle results, their in-rate training will be in areas other than technical and vice versa for Message Center personnel. The strategy works. A comparison of March and September examination profile sheets showed a 50 percent increase in all areas, and 40 percent in those areas not relating to that functional area.

While the training staff has provided additional tools to assist their shipmates, according to Toomer, "It has been the desire for success and relentless determination of those test takers that ultimately made it happen."

Sparks

training

MASTERS OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC UNIVERSE CONDUCT TRAINING ON NEW C3A COMMUNICATIONS VANS

By CDR Corby Megorden, Deputy Commander, ABFC COMM HQ and CDR Terry Conner, OIC, NR ABFC 3, San Antonio, TX

In July, the normally quiet Naval Communications Detachment, Cheltenham, Maryland, became abuzz with activity as members of the Naval Reserve Advanced Base Functional Component (ABFC) Communications Van Community descended to conduct annual training on two state-of-the art mobile communications vans. Naval Reserve Advanced Base Functional Component (ABFC) Communications Headquarters 106 at Cheltenham, hosted a multi-unit annual training evolution for approximately 100 reservists from six reserve units from all points of the nation. The most unusual aspect of this evolution is the fact that the entire month long training program was developed, planned and executed almost solely by members of the ABFC Communications Reserve Units located at Cheltenham, MD.

The focus of the evolution was to conduct the initial operational training on the new ABFC C3A Communications Van, a new mobile communications platform developed by SPAWAR, COMNAVCOMTEL-COM and NISE West (NRAD San Diego). The training period, broken into two 2-week AT segments, was designed to teach unit personnel the fundamentals of the van systems, and then practice full van set up, operation, and tear down. Classroom lectures were immediately followed by hands on training on the specific equipment, providing an ideal environment for learning and perfecting operational skills. Training in all aspects of van operations was performed, including power systems,

mobilization systems, communications and cryptological systems, and antennae systems. The training culminated in a two-day communications exercise designed to test the knowledge of every student.

NR ABFC COMM HQ 106, commanded by CAPT Jeffrey Lawson, has a primary mission to COMNAVCOMTELCOM to train ABFC Van and Communications personnel, and to coordinate deployment of ABFC C3A vans in contributory and/or exercise support of Fleet CINCs. This role encompasses operational coordination between COMNAVCOMTELCOM, Fleet CINCs and the seven ABFC Reserve Units.

Additionally, operating under a draft Memorandum of Understanding, the Headquarters, under the leadership of operations officer LCDR Stephen Karoly, has provided similar support to the eight Reserve Mobile Ashore Support Terminal (MAST) and the Mobile Integrated Command Facility (MICFAC) units. Collectively, the unit oversees nearly 400 reservists, providing mobile support for C3 and C4I requirements worldwide.

When the two ABFC communications vans were delivered to COMNAVCOMTELCOM in October 1995, the Naval Communications Detachment in Cheltenham, MD, was designated as the storage site. This provided an outstanding training opportunity for the personnel of NR ABFC COMM HQ 106, locally based NR ABFC 1 LANT 1106, and NR

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ABFC 4 LANT 806 to both regularly operate and maintain the equipment.

Excellent curriculum and lesson plan development was accomplished through the efforts of resident training development expert CWO2 Doug Stine, OIC, training period 2, and LCDR Chris Jarner, OIC, NR ABFC1; LCDR Paul Hamilton, OIC, NR ABFC4; LT Bob Buchanan, OIC NR ABFC Comm Sec 406; LT Bob Roe, Asst. OIC ABFC4 and LCDR Rick Goode, Asst. OIC, ABFC1.

Key instructors were CMS expert RMC Garry Turner, ETC Eric Dietz, ET1 Michael Forest, ETC Robert Fike, RM1 Vicki Dean, RMC(sel) Bill Destaph, RM2 Stevie Boyer, EN2 Barry Allen, RMC(sel) Robert Filbert, EN2 James Jones, and RM2 Eric Thomas.

Developed by NISE West, the ABFC C3A van can provide an extremely powerful communications platform for a field commander in any wartime, or quick response situation. Each 8 x 20 foot van packs an impressive communications capability within a relatively small, easily mobilized package. Satellite communications, including INMARSAT, HF, VHF, and UHF radio circuits, secure/non-secure voice and data capability, and the ability to receive fleet message traffic and transmit record message traffic to local commands are available to meet contingency communications demands worldwide. The communications vans, currently based in Cheltenham, deploy complete with equipment and highly trained operators requiring only a few hours to become operational once the deployment site is reached.

In the past, the need for shore based mobile communications has been met by using the Ashore Mobile Contingency Communications (AMCC) Vans. The majority of those AMCC Vans have now been decommissioned. However, current world events provide evidence of multiple scenarios that illustrate the need for such a communications asset. U.S. military involvement in regional contingencies is multiple methods of communicating with headquarters authorities, as well as subordinate field units. Deployment accompanied by the requirement that field commanders have of a field commander to a country with no existing U.S. military base infrastructure additionally imposes a need for importing mobile assets. The ABFC Communications Van provides a rapid response, mobile communications suite for meeting varied communications contingencies worldwide.

RM2 Eric Thomas of NR-ABFC 1 1106 (Washington, DC) instructs unit members of NR-ABFC 5 905 (Dayton, OH) and NR 2 411 (Dallas, TX) on the INMARSAT terminal operations. (Photo by Jason Carter, NAVSECSTA, Washington, DC)

training

Sparks

TYCOM READINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: A REALISTIC APPROACH

By LTjg Tony Lover, Area Requirements Officer, NCTAMS MED

"Technology is always changing and so are our people. Now we've got this new program to learn. How are we supposed to keep the messages flowing?" The petty officer who said this may have been overwhelmed by her job, but the answer to her question was in the very statement she made. This "new program," the TYCOM Readiness Management System, or TRMS, which has recently been implemented in the claimancy, is designed to assist commands in getting their people trained as quickly as possible in order to "keep the messages flowing" to the fleet and adapt to changing technologies.

Although seen by some to be just a series of drills, TRMS is really a total system of watchstander evaluation and training for improving the overall proficiency of a command. The days are long past when "A" school training was sufficient for an entire career in the radio shack. With the number of new systems coming on line every year, a systematic approach to training our operators is needed so that everyone understands their watchstations; and those who transfer to new commands see a consistent framework of training and can learn their jobs as quickly as possible. TRMS provides this framework.

Drill sessions are the formation of TRMS training; and it's here that NCTAMS WESTPAC has been working to make the drills as meaningful and valuable as possible for the watchstanders. The seven-member drill team was chosen from among the most proficient operators and subject matter experts, and the same team conducts all the sessions to maintain consistency across the command. Team members are RM1 C. Oatley, RM2 T. McMillian, RM2 J. Staley, RM2 D. Oliver, RM2(SW) K. Hester, RM2 R. Santos, and RMCS(SW) M. Anderson (LCPO).

Before each drill session, the team meets to discuss the watch section they'll be evaluating in order to tailor the training to the individuals who need it most. The drill package is approved by the command based on previous performance, watchstander evaluations, the quarterly schedule of required drills, and upcoming events. Drills are not conducted just for the sake of doing them, but rather with an eye to maximize the station's ability to respond to any casualty.

The method of imposition of a casualty takes most of the team's planning time; for the team is most concerned with ensuring that the drill is realistic and a surprise to watchstanders. It is easy to walk up to the MARCEMP operator and say, "Your terminal has failed. What do you do," but this merely becomes a memorization test for the operator. It is far better to generate a number of scenarios for a failed terminal, pick one and arrange for the terminal to look like it failed that way, then see how the operator reacts.

So how can a terminal fail? Can it go blank? The drill evaluator can turn the terminal off. Can it freeze up? The drill evaluator can put a card with printed characters in front of the screen. Can it catch fire? Turn the terminal off and hold a cigarette lighter behind it! Here we have three

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different scenarios for a single casualty; the watchstander won't know what to expect when the drill starts at their console, and for that matter, no one in the watch section knows. Nondisclosure is a prime necessity for realism.

The drill team uses a package of tools to impose the drills: cards to put over computer screens, grease pencils to write on meter faces, or noisemakers to simulate strange noises in equipment.

According to RM2 Oliver, "Having been a Traffic Watch Officer (TWO), I feel TRMS is a highly effective program. It brings out the scenarios that don't happen every day, but that could happen. When we started this program, it was met with resistance and hesitance. Now the operators are starting to come around because they recognize the program increases the knowledge base of all parties involved."

This quest for realism takes a <u>lot</u> of planning. The evaluators have to be prepared in case watchstanders take improper actions. The evaluators should let the watchstander take actions to control the casualty, and only step in if the watchstander is going to damage equipment or cause a real casualty.

Furthermore, the team must ensure that fleet communications are not impaired during the drill — if a console is going to be turned off, another console might be manned by a drill team member to maintain operations. It takes a lot of planning to do it right.

Finally, the drills are useless if the watchstanders don't learn from them. RM1 Machele Maione, Tech Control Chief of the Watch states, "Although I understand the need for no-notice drills, I preferred them when they were more formal because I had more time to prepare. Now, drills just happen. It really keeps you on your toes, especially when they pop up at 0300 on a Sunday morning."

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At the end of the drill set the drill team meets privately to go over the watchstanders' reactions, and the team discusses the weak points and the strong points. A written critique, routed through the watch section and up through the chain of command, lets everyone comment on the system and improve it.

Improvement is what the readiness management system is all about!

MANAGEMENT OF KW 46 ROB

By Ron Burnside, Key Mat Technical Advisor, DCMS

Normally there are several "safety features" built into NKDS that provide some degree of automatic tracking and detection of non-issuance of a COMSEC account's reserve-on-board (ROB). As discussed in CMS 1, article 620, COMSEC material not issued by the CMIO will reflect on the ROB shipment SF-153 as a less item. NKDS compiles these less items into a monthly report which is scrutinized by DCMS operations personnel in order to identify an alternate stock point.

Unfortunately, these safety features do not apply to issue of the KW 46 ROB. The entire ROB issue process for KW 46 keying material is manual in nature, and requires very careful scrutiny on the part of all involved, but especially the account COMSEC custodian.

This year, CMIO will receive the 1997 KW 46 ROB from NSA in the July-August time frame and commence its issue.

If you do not receive your 1997 KW 46 ROB by 15 October 1996 it is imperative that you notify ALCON via electrical message. Address your message dual action to DCMS (Code 30) and CMIO (Code 20).

Remember, 15 October! Mark it on your calendar. A MAJOR NET MAY DEPEND ON YOU HAVING THE PROPER KEY IN TIME!

Sparks

training

REVIEW AND REVALIDATION BOASTS MORE THAN $3.7M IN SAVINGS

By Billie Wright, Resource Coordinator, NAVCOMTELCOM

In February, the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command (NAVCOMTELCOM) claimancy began a review and revalidation (R&R) of all long-haul telecommunications services, circuits, and equipment. The purpose was to identify all leased long-haul equipment and services which are no longer required, and to review and determine if required services can be provided more economically.

In accordance with DOD Directive 4640.13, Management of Base and Long Haul Telecommunications Equipment and Services, claimancies worked diligently to complete the R&R by its 3 July deadline.

To assist them in conducting the R&R, major claimants received R&R data base software, software operation instructions, procedures, and a list of all long-haul circuits. In addition, an R&R Site Review Team, composed of Bettye Pfaff, NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville, and Billie Wright, NAVCOMTELCOM, assisted in the revalidation process. The team traveled to various activities within the NCTAMS LANT and NAVCOMTELSTA San Diego regions.

NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville and NAVCOMTELSTA Puget Sound deserve special recognition for the synergistic approach they took to the review and revalidation process. During the NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville site visit, RM1 Kurt Jefferson, Tech Control, Kathy Boyd, Base Comms Office, and Laurie Ward, DMC, collectively worked to resolve discrepant circuits within their R&R database.

The site visit at NAVCOMTELSTA Puget Sound proved rewarding as well, where RM1 Fred Fox and LT Perez, Tech Control Office; Brenda Gray and LT Fotheringham, Base Comm Office; and Bob Baldwin, Plans Division, worked together to ensure a good scrub was performed on their circuits.

Tackling the R&R from a team concept not only allowed these two sites to develop quality databases containing circuit information, but this also positioned them to complete their R&R in record time and report their successes to their respective regional commands.

"Overall, our claimancy has aggressively met the challenge in performing the R&R and deserve recognition. The process of analyzing the data is almost complete, so far early figures indicate a savings of $4.2M," says Ms. Wright.

According to Ron Olsen, Director of Base Communications at NAVCOMTELCOM, "This was a team effort claimancy-wide and we are encouraged by the preliminary figures. Substantial efficiencies were achieved in circuit routing and equipment configurations. As a result, we fully anticipate significant cost savings to the Navy."

BASE LEVEL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING

By Jake Terry and Henry Moore, Telecommunications Specialists, NAVCOMTELCOM

training

The first Base Level Information Infrastructure (BLII) Working Group Meeting was hosted by NAVCOM-TELCOM in Washington, DC. Over 75 people representing CNO, SPAWAR, ONI, COMFAIRMED, and the NAVCOM- TELCOM four regions attended the August 20-22, 1996 meeting.

In his opening remarks, CAPT Mark Villarreal, Deputy, NAVCOM-TELCOM, emphasized the importance of the BLII, the need to achieve a common understanding of base communications issues, and the importance of working together to reach a common goal.

Chuck Trigger, NAVCOMTEL-COM (N5), was the BLII working group chairperson. He stressed the need for a combined effort across the claimancy, including the N2s, N3s, and N5s, along with the SPAWAR community. According to Mr. Trigger, "Individual departments can no longer work independently, but must work jointly and in harmony to perform NAVCOMTELCOM's mission in the transition from AUTODIN to the new Defense Messaging System (DMS) by 31 December 1999."

Speakers throughout the claimancy, SPAWAR, and CNO (N46) provided insight on today's BLII and planned future technology. Jeff Huskey, CNO (N466), presented "Smart Base Concept," CDR Smith, SPAWAR (PMW-176), spoke on JMCOMS, Noe Apilado, SPAWAR (PMW-152), presented "BLII Imple- mentation Strategy and Master Plan Overview," and LT Reeve, SPAWAR (PMW-152-SE) spoke on "BLII/ Global Network Phase-Out."

NAVCOMTELCOM staff presented on a variety of topics, including the AUTODIN phase out, BCO functional transfer status, DMS services status/POA&M, unofficial telephone service and BCO vision 21st Century.

Representatives from each NAVCOMTELCOM region briefed attendees on ongoing and projected initiatives which ready the warfighter for DMS, and the goals and shortfalls of furnishing DMS to the customer. In the end, the group consensus was there is a deficiency in current funding and manpower to support the implementation of DMS.

CAPT M.P. Finn closed the meeting with an open discussion of the pertinent issues, and he re-emphasized the need to work smarter in the future. According to CAPT Finn, "Increased funding and man-power will not be available in the near future. Therefore, we all must be more innovative in doing our day-to-day activities to support the Fleet."

Post working group comments indicate the meeting was a rousing success. The next meeting is tenta-tively planned for early 1997. For additional information, contact Muriel McGhee, Head, NAVCOMTELCOM BLII Branch, at (202) 764-0623 or send e-mail to N511@NCTCGW. NAVY.MIL.

LAGO PATRIA SATCOM GETS A FACELIFT

By Tim O'Connell, NCTAMS MED

The NCTAMS MED Satellite Communications Site at Lago Patria is undergoing massive changes. Two major antenna upgrade projects are being conducted simultaneously, preparing the site to provide world-wide satellite connectivity well into the next century.

The AN/FSC-79 and AN/GSC-39 Satellite Earth Terminal renovation project is part of an ambitious world-wide effort to improve Department of Defense satellite communications. Carried out by the U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (USAISEC) and Hughes Corporation, the project is a six-month effort to upgrade both antennas with state of the art equipment and software. The Lago Patria upgrade is the third of eleven sites worldwide.

To accomplish the renovations, USAISEC brought in a remote satellite terminal to maintain operations while the other satellite terminals are down. NCTAMS MED Radiomen and Electronic Technicians received two weeks of training prior to the project initiation. ET1 Frank Padilla, Maintenance LPO and NCTAMS MED project liaison, stated that all the trainees received valuable experience that enhanced their professional knowledge immensely. Petty Officer Padilla has been working directly with Staff Sergeant Howard Pfeiffer, USAISEC Team Leader, and stated that both Navy and Army teams gained great joint interoperability experience.

In addition to the RM and ET participation, Seabees and facilities personnel from the NCTAMS MED N4 Facilities Department have been busy assisting the antenna renovation project. The Army team has relied upon Navy support to provide electric power installation, crane service, procurement of materials, and construction.

Upon the team's arrival, they concluded that a loading dock was required for more efficient movement of equipment required for the antenna renovation. GSM1 Larry Schmitz and CE2 Kyle Morris attacked the task, and in three days a loading dock was constructed and ready to facilitate the movement of tons of equipment. LT Theresa Schaudies, SATCOM OIC, remarked that the work was of such high quality, that the loading dock could be used as a stage for concerts and other entertainment activities. The satellite renovation project is ongoing and scheduled for completion by November 1996.

The other project in progress at Lago Patria is Military Construction Project P-109. This project will do for the buildings and utility systems what the other project is doing for the antenna — bringing them up to speed for the next century.

The renovation includes new shop spaces for ET's and Seabee's, new air conditioning systems, a new grounding system, and major changes in the electrical generation, grounding and switching systems. This year-long, $2.5 million project will resolve the frequent utility outages at this remote site, ensuring improved communications reliability and mission accomplishment.

Together, P-109 and the antenna upgrade projects are making life quite chaotic in Lago Patria. RMCS(SW)

MAJOR REPAIR PROJECTS AT CUTLER

By George Thomas, Supervisory Planner/Estimator, NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler

As NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler completes 35 years of operation, there are several major repair projects being accomplished at the station.

The power plant complex has just completed an upgrade of the fuel truck offload facility, which will enable fuel deliveries to be by truck vice barge. The decision to upgrade the truck offload facility, rather than repair the existing fuel pier was based on both the higher costs of repairing the fuel pier and the impact of a possible fuel spill in the waters of this environmentally sensitive region of the country.

The painting of the power plant fuel farm tanks, with a capacity of 20,000 barrels of fuel oil, are nearing completion, as is the replacement of the fuel delivery system on one of the main power plant engines. The importance of all these projects lies in the fact that this power plant, capable of generating up to 15 million watts of power, is the sole source of power to the VLF transmitter site.

The VLF antenna system is also receiving attention. The south antenna array's tower fail safe insula-tors, which prevent electric currents from energizing the towers, are being replaced for the first time since the original installation took place 35 years ago.

Also, one of two helix houses, constructed mostly of steel and aluminum, is currently being repaired and painted with a new coating system to minimize future corrosion. Making this project even more important, is the fact that the paint being removed contains lead. Replacement paint will, of course, be lead free. The second helix house will undergo the same improvements in the summer of 1997.

All 26 of the VLF towers are also scheduled for painting. This will include lead paint abatement similar to that being done at the helix houses. The work on the towers is scheduled to begin this fall, but as the summer season is so short in downeast Maine — and can be shortened even more by extremely foggy conditions even at the height of the summer season — the painting will continue through next summer.

LAGO PATRIA SATCOM

Don Stoddard, LCPO of the site, said that it is flexibility, communication and hard work that are providing success. "We all talk regularly so we know each other's schedules, and don't get in each other's way. It's a full time commitment between our SATCOM regulars, U.S. and Italian contractors, the CNCTC Tech Rep, Army personnel, and our NATO neighbors."

The success of both projects is reflected by the on-schedule status and good relations between the participating organizations. So if you are looking for a career enhancing opportunity to work in the Mediterranean, where the rubber meets the road, come join the NCTAMS MED professionals at the Lago Patria Satellite Receiver Site and see for yourself what excitement is.

facility upgrade

NAVCOMTELSTA ICELAND COMPLETES MAJOR UPGRADE

By RM1 C.H. Swing, NAVCOMTELSTA KEFLAVIK

NAVCOMTELSTA Keflavik, Iceland recently completed a major upgrade to a local base wide Fiber Optic Communications Network (FOCN). This upgrade effectively replaces older "Infotron/Gandolf" multiplexer equipment with the Integrated Digital Network Exchange (INDX).

The transmission backbone of the on-island IDNX network is a 45MB FOCN ring which transverses via T-3 trunks connecting its internal nodes. Each "backbone node" includes an IDNX-90 and Canoga-Perkins 2245 DS3 Fiber Optic Modem interface to support the T-3 connectivity.

The IDNX Network is base wide and supports voice/data tactical circuits including tactical telephones. It is fully redundant and provides uninterrupted circuit connectivity by means of dynamic automatic alternate routing. The network allows full operator interface at any given nodal installation, making circuit trouble-shooting a simple task.

Naval Radio Transmitter Facility Grindavik and Naval Radio Receiver Facility Rockville interface with the IDNX FOCN network through the Combined Reporting Center (CRC) which is the focal point of the Iceland Air Defense System/Icelandic Post and Telegraph agency (IADS/IPTA) Fiber ring. The Remote Radar Heads (RRH) 1,2,3,& 4 circuits traverse the IADS/IPTA ring at the aggregate level to the CRC Timeplex +2 mux equipment before entering the IDNX Network.

Remaining model installations require less bandwidth — needing only the IDNX-20 or ADNX-48

equipment which transverses via a 100MB FOCN rotating ring — to support the Base Wide Tactical Telephone Service.

The IDNX/FOCN Network is monitored and controlled by the Network Management System (NMS) located in the Network Master Node. The NMS is a 17 inch terminal monitor which gives a graphical display of the network and nodal shelves. The system can be programmed to automatically control the network with minimal operator intervention. Network alarms are color coded to bring to the attention of watchstanders alarms that are significant to the network. The alarming object can merely be clicked on by a mouse key and queried in seconds.

A 16-member team made the upgrade possible. They are RMC(SW) Jon Thies, RM1(AW) Charles Swing, RM1 Curtis Smith, RM1 Sylvia Woodward, RM1 Monica Brown, ET1(AW) Banks Van Pelt, ET1 James Morrison, ET1 Debra Pohlod, RM2 Ronnie Applewhite, RM2 Kenneth Yates, ET2 Tracie Welshel, ET2 Aundra Browning, ET2 James Owens, ET2(AW) Steven Buhr, ET3 Mike Ruckhaber, ET3(AW) Charles Wallin.

Phase II of this project will begin 4th quarter 1996 and will involve the complete move and equipment/circuit cutover to the newly built NATO Communications Center. It will include an Automated Network with the IDNX for circuit troubleshooting and monitoring.

NAVCOMTELSTA CUTLER: 35 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

By Eileen Robinson, Public Affairs Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler

facility upgrade

On 23 June 1996, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA) Cutler celebrated 35 years since its commissioning in June 1961. To mark the occasion NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler held an anniversary celebration for station personnel and the local community.

The Northeastern Navy Showband from Newport, Rhode Island performed two public concerts, one at Washington Academy in East Machias, Maine and one at the base. More than 500 people attended the two concerts. There were also base tours, which included a continuous showing of a video of the actual construction of the base. Approximately 300 people took the opportunity to tour the base.

The Anniversary Celebration concluded with a dinner-dance with music once again provided by the Navy Showband. Six of the original employees of NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler were honored at the dinner. They were John Atwood, Millard Cole, Dave Hinerman, Bernard Ross, Clyde Bernhardt, and Ellis Small. These retirees represented close to 200 years of service at NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler.

Fireworks that evening announced to everyone that NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler is alive and well in "downeast" Maine.

In a post event letter of appreciation, Vincent Lodge, Jr., NCC(SW), USN Retired, writes, "I would like to thank you and all the NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler personnel (military and civilian) for the wonderful open house yesterday. My father was one of the original builders of Cutler and worked there for over three years. He has since passed away, but my 82 year old mother enjoyed every minute of the tour, especially the video. The Northeast Navy Showband was outstanding. As a retired CPO, former RM turned NC, I was especially proud to be "back in" for a few hours. It is still the proud, professional Navy I knew. BRAVO ZULU!!"

NAVSATCOMMFAC NORTHWEST COMPLETES HT/MT MODERNIZATION

By ETC(SW) Jerry Keach, NAVSATCOMMFAC Northwest

NAVSATCOMMFAC Northwest became the Navy's first Satellite Communications Facility to complete the Heavy Terminal/Medium Terminal Modernization Program under the cognizance of Project Manager, Satellite Communications and U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. From September-December 1995, the AN/FSC-79 (the Navy's Heavy Terminal for SHF Fleet Multi-channel Broadcast) underwent modernization. The modernization consisted of removing all outdated RF equipment and replacing it with computer controlled equipment. This included replacing the high failure rated water-cooled HPAs with modern air-cooled HPAs. In addition to the work required with the field kit, the FSC-79's feedhorn was replaced as part of COMNAVCOMTELCOM's initiative to upgrade the FSC-79 to an intermodulation-free terminal.

Beginning in Jan 96, the AN/FSC-78A, a DSCS III SHF Heavy Terminal, was modernized as well. Upon the successful completion of the HT/MT Mod, the two heavy terminals at Northwest, now called the FSC-79A and FSC-78B, will be able to perform their missions well into the 21st Century.

Completion of this project would have been impossible were it not for the support of the following people. Special thanks to ETC Jerry Keach, ET1 David Thomas, ET1 Frank Robbins, ET2 Charles Collier, SK2 John Rives, ET1 Kelly Zink, and ET1 Frank Evangelo.

MICFAC SYSTEM PROVIDES C4I SUPPORT TO NAVAL FORCES

By RMC(AW) Parshall, NCTAMS MED

In February, one of the first mobile C4I systems was delivered to NAS Sigonella. Known as Mobile Integrated Command Facilities Europe (MICFAC EUR), this C4I system was designed to replace AMCC units currently in place. AMCC-8, located at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Sicily, was decommissioned in August 1995 pending the arrival of the MICFAC.

Developed by the Naval Command, Control, and Ocean Surveillance Center, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Division in San Diego, the system was designed as an initial ashore C4I system with capabilities equivalent to those of an aircraft carrier.

This mobile C4I system displays the tactical situation as it develops on shore and at sea, and allows a commander ashore to fully interact with afloat commanders and platforms in an operational environment.

As a rapidly deployable C4I system, it interfaces with the Joint Maritime Command Information System (JMCIS) by providing a tailored Naval Tactical Command System-Afloat (NTCS-A) configuration ashore to support Navy or Joint operations.

The MICFAC is a complete mobile command center and consists of three transportable components: a C4I communications and computer van, a support van, and a triple wide shelter for operations space and data terminals. Two 60KW state-of-the-art generators provide primary power. It can be air-transported by one C-5A, two C-141s, four C-130 aircraft or by H-53 helicopters, and set up by six personnel within 8 hours of arrival.

Some of the capabilities of the MICFAC system are:

1. *Imagery with a GMF/T1 capable SHF SATCOM terminal*
2. *Secure voice and high speed data traffic*
3. *UHF SATCOM using the USC-54(VICS) state-of-the-art radio*
4. *HF/UHF/VHF Comms for Link 11*
5. *HIT BCST*
6. *Secure voice and message traffic — which will be provided by the NAVMACS II system when it is fielded.*

With the advent of the MICFAC's multiple systems, manning was changed to reflect the various support systems in the MICFAC. The old ratings consisted of an RMC as OIC, two ETs, one EN and one EM. New manning reflects an OSC as OIC, and DP and DS ratings added to the initial RMC crew of the ETs and EN. Only the EM rate was not needed to support the unit. Personnel will begin arriving around September 1996 to man the unit.

MICFAC EUR should begin operations in early FY97.